NOSTALGIA

Spire end and the milk race begins

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES WE REPORTED ON THIS DAY IN THE PAST

A world of computers – 1986

TANSLEY Typewriter Company, which has been selling and servicing typewriters for over 60 years, has made a successful transition into the world of computers.

Their showroom in Longstanton High Street features the Olivetti MP24 SP personal computer with a 20-megabyte hard drive.

The company has a team of four engineers who travel as far as Peterborough and Bedford to carry out installations and also service electronic typewriters and word processors.

Tansley works in 1964

50p to meet a partner – 1981

A CAMBRIDGE student has set up a computer dating service for lonely hearts in the university.

For just 50p, the unattached undergraduate is promised an introduction to the partner of his dreams. Confidential questionnaires drawn up by a student of experimental psychology were sent out and the results loaded on a computer. It matches them up to produce ideal partners and bliss ensues.

It is hoped the first couples will be paired off by St Valentine's Day.

Romance on the River Cam in 1954
DAILY MIRROR/MIRRORPIX

A permanent home for scrapbooks – 1965

CAMBRIDGE Librarian, Eric Cave, is anxious to provide a permanent home in the central library for odd items of Cambridge interest like old books, scrapbooks, prints, and photographs.

He had recently received a scrapbook of the public activities of the late Ald W.L. Raynes when he was mayor from 1931 to 1932. His executors sent them having seen a report about a similar gift from another former mayor.

Half a dozen redundant churches – 1958

SIX Cambridge churches are redundant, according to a committee appointed by the Bishop of Ely.

St Peter's presents no pressing problem, St Michael's has for long been an embarrassment and should be converted into a parish hall, St Clement's is clearly redundant with few worshippers.

With active evangelisation, All Saints could justify its purpose as a parish church but St Botolph's would probably be taken over by Corpus Christi as a library and Great St Andrew's might be bought by the city to develop, they speculate.

Fenland flooding forces residents out – 1939

THE Fenland flood situation is very serious, with water six feet above normal.

Patrols are watching the banks day and night and additional engineers have been sent in.

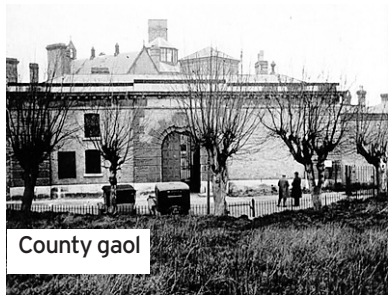
At Littleport and Prickwillow, waters have encompassed a number of properties and the occupants are preparing to evacuate.

With further rain, there would be as serious a threat of flooding as in 1937. Pumps at St Germans were operating at full throttle and Denver is pumping 11 out of 12 hours.

Decline in beauty – 1930

THE inaugural meeting of the Cambridge branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England heard that the appearance of a Charles II house at the corner of the road between Huntingdon and the Great North Road had recently been completely spoiled by some dreadful enamelled signs and that Caxton – a gem of a village surrounded by lovely undulating land – could not now be approached unless one was 'hit in the eye' by a horrible advertisement which blocked the way.

The Bishop of Ely said the motor business and traffic had a tremendous amount to answer for. The petrol stations were just like fungus. In regard to local beauty spots, they had Wicken fen and also beet sugar factories. (Laughter)



County gaol

Where will students study? – 1929

CERTAIN documents of a historical nature are stored in Cambridge prison on Castle Hill and access is permitted to university students for the purpose of study.

But if a county hall is built on the site, the prison will be pulled down and the documents removed.

The university fears that they would lose a very big educational factor and urges the county council to provide accommodation for them in their new building.

Having regard to the tendency of modern legislation to give councils more work, they would probably require considerably more accommodation at the end of 20 years and such storage would then be valuable for administrative purposes.

New building planned for Castle site – 1929

THE County Architect presented sketch plans for a new building on the Cambridge Castle site, containing office accommodation,

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